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# The Clute holotypes and the herbarium of Willard Nelson Clute in the Friesner Herbarium of Butler University

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**The Clute Holotypes and the Pteridophyte Herbarium of Willard Nelson Clute in the Friesner Herbarium of Butler University (BUT).** — The herbarium of Willard Nelson Clute is housed in the Friesner Herbarium (BUT). Clute, co-founder of the American Fern Society, was a staff member at Butler University in the 1920's and 30's. His collection of ferns and fern allies from the turn of the century is significant for its selected regional coverage and for type specimens of taxa described by Clute and other fern specialists of the day. Its 1200 sheets consist of 39% Clute specimens along with 131 other collectors with whom he presumably exchanged. Clute provided a brief autobiography (Clute, 1902. Fern Bull. 10:122–123.). He wrote textbooks and popular guides to ferns and flowering plants and tended to wax poetical in his informal writings. Several examples of his work were highlighted in the *Fiddlehead Forum* (Debono, 1989. Fiddlehead Forum 16:24–25). In 1928, at age 59, he took a position as professor of Botany and curator of the Botanical Garden at Butler University in Indianapolis. Clute was a self-described conservative in botanical and nomenclatural matters. While recognizing the necessity for the occasional description of a new species, he steadfastly

Table 1. Fern taxa described by Willard Nelson Clute. Herbaria where types are deposited are indicated if known.

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*Asplenium clutei* Gilbert

Fern Bulletin 8:62–63. TYPE: JAMAICA. Newhaven Gap, altitude 5,600 ft., 9 Feb. 1900, *W.N. Clute 118*. BUT.

*Cystopteris fragilis* f. *magnasora* Clute

Fern Bulletin 9:65. TYPE: U.S.A. PENNSYLVANIA. Great Bend, 10 Aug. 1900, *W. N. Clute s.n.* NY.

*Cystopteris fragilis* subsp. *tenuifolia* Clute

Fern Bulletin 16:76. TYPE: U.S.A. ARIZONA. Carr Canyon Huachuca Mts., Nov. 1907, *J. H. Ferris sn.* Lost or location unknown.

*Dicksonia pilosiuscula* f. *schizophylla* Clute

Fern Bulletin 10:87. TYPE: U.S.A. CONNECTICUT. Andover, 27 July 1901, *A. Vincent Osmun s.n.* Lost or location unknown.

*Dryopteris gilberti* Clute

Fern Bulletin 8:67. TYPE: JAMAICA. Cuna Cuna Gap, 7 March 1900, *W. N. Clute 200a*. K.

*Equisetum ferrissii* Clute

Fern Bulletin 12:20. TYPE: U.S.A. ILLINOIS. Joliet. 18 Aug. 1903, *W. N. Clute s.n.* Lost or location unknown.

*Lycopodium adpressum* f. *polyclavatum* Clute

Fern Bulletin 9:9. TYPE: U.S.A. NEW YORK. Southern end of Staten Island, no date. *W. H. McDonald s.n.* Lost or location unknown.

*Lycopodium alopecuroides* var. *polyclavum* Clute

Fern Bulletin 9:9. TYPE: U.S.A. NEW YORK. Southern end of Staten Island, 4 Oct. 1900, *W. N. Clute s.n.* BUT.

*Nephrodium cristatum clinotonianum* f. *silvaticum* Clute

Fern Bulletin 16:13. TYPE: U.S.A. PENNSYLVANIA. Delaware County, no date, *W. A. Poyser, Type No. 534*. Lost or location unknown.

*Polypodium prolongilobum* Clute

Fern Bulletin 18:97. TYPE: U.S.A. ARIZONA. Southern slopes of Mt. Lemmon, Santa Catalina Mts., Oct. 1910, *J. H. Ferriss s.n.* US.

*Polystichum acrostichoides* f. *recurvatum* Clute

Fern Bulletin 12:79. TYPE: U.S.A. CONNECTICUT. Salisbury, no date, *Mrs. C. S. Phelps s.n.* Lost or location unknown.

*Pteris aquilina* var. *pseudocaudata* Clute

Fern Bulletin 8:39. TYPE: U.S.A. NEW YORK. Babylon, Long Island, 8 Sept. 1898, *W. N. Clute 339*. NY.

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opposed the giving of specific rank to "mere forms" (Clute, 1902). Gilbert and others of the day named many forms, most of which are not recognized as significant entities deserving of taxon recognition today (Lellinger, 1985. A field manual of the forms and fern allies of the United States and Canada, Smithsonian Distribution Press, Washington, D.C.). Names of at least two taxa described by Clute are still in use today: a variety of bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pseudocaudatum* (Clute) Heller (Fern Bulletin 8:39), and the Jamaican fern *Dryopteris gilberti* Clute (Fern Bulletin 8:67); (Lellinger, 1985; Proctor, 1985. Ferns of Jamaica, a guide to the pteridophytes. British Museum Pub. No. 895). In his *The Fern Allies* (Clute, 1905. Frederick Stokes Co., NY.) Clute proposed several new combinations for species of *Isoetes* and *Lycopodium* that are identified as synonyms in one recent listing of pteridophyte synonymy (Kartesz & Kartesz, 1980. A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC). Type specimens of taxa described by Clute are presented with citations in Table 1. A number of names published in the *Fern Journal* but not formally described are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Names suggested by Clute in the Fern Bulletin, but not formally described (labels may indicate specimen is a type).

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<i>Adiantum tricholepis</i> f. <i>glabrum</i> (vol. 12:44), US
<i>Asplenium ebeneum</i> f. <i>furcatum</i> (vol. 17:88)
<i>Lycopodium lucidulum</i> f. <i>occidentale</i> (vol. 11:13), US
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i> var. <i>angustum</i> (vol. 8:90), BUT
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> f. <i>angusta</i> (vol. 17:12)
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> f. <i>cornucopiaefolia</i> (vol. 16:109)
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> f. <i>trifolia</i> (vol. 17:12)
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> f. <i>linearis</i> (vol. 17:10)
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> var. <i>perpusillum</i> (vol. 18:97), US
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> f. <i>gravesii</i> (vol. 20:49)
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> f. <i>lanceolatum</i> (vol. 20:24)

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Unfortunately, most Clute holotypes are not present in BUT and were not located through inquiries to other herbaria known to have Clute specimens (E, F, G, ILL, IK, MO, NY, P, RM, and US). It is possible that they were taken by Clute when he left Butler and were subsequently lost (Lellinger, pers. comm.). The Director of BUT requests that workers locating these misplaced Clute holotypes inform the author or Dr. Lellinger.

Butler undergraduate student Jennifer Copeland compiled specimen label information into a database that greatly eased investigations into the collection. Herbarium Assistant Nancy Andrew also assisted. David Lellinger provided a helpful review of the manuscript. — REBECCA W. DOLAN, Department of Biological Sciences, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN 46208.